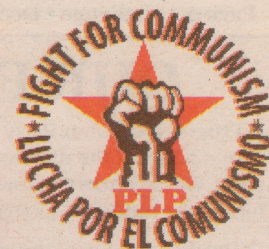


CHALLENGE



THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST NEWSPAPER OF PROGRESSIVE LABOR PARTY

Volume 55 No. 24

December 13, 2023

Suggested Donation \$1

CUNY'S LIBERAL FASCISM

WORKERS & KIDS WE WILL LIBERATE BURY THE BOSSES & THEIR STATE



From NYC to Palestine free students and workers with communist revolution

November 29, PELHAM, NY—On Sunday, more than 40 faculty, students, and staff from the City University of New York (CUNY) marched to the home of Félix (Felo) Matos-Rodriguez, the CUNY Chancellor. Like liberal fascists around the world, Matos-Rodriguez's reaction to the U.S.-Israel genocide of workers in Gaza has been to demonize worker-student solidarity with the working class in Palestine struggling against Israeli fascism and to minimize the suffering of workers in Palestine as U.S.-made bombs rain down on Gaza. The protest was organized to object to his statement of October 11th, which ran to more than 450 words and didn't mention "Palestine" or "Gaza" a single time.

The march gave us, members and friends of the Progressive Labor Party (PLP), an opportunity to put forward an internationalist line - unity between workers in Palestine, Israel, and around the world - that is absolutely critical in this period of crisis and war. The opening speech (see box) highlighted the connections between the genocide happening in Gaza and CUNY's treatment of its mostly Black and Latin students and its super-exploitation of part-time professors, most of whom make poverty wages. The success of our efforts was highlighted by the fact that instead of the "Free Palestine!" or "Ceasefire Now!" chants that dominate most of the recent protests, our main chant was "Arab, Jewish, Black and White, Workers of the World Unite."

As we marched up to the Chancellor's home, the quiet town of Pelham heard our chants. At his home, students and workers spoke about struggling to survive on adjunct wages, about how the voices of Palestinian and antiracist groups have been muffled on campus, and how we need international solidarity to fight back. Throughout, PLP members tried to drive home key points: capitalist crises will always lead to war and fascism, U.S. bosses need Ukraine and Israel as allies against their imperialist rivals, and they will make workers and students pay for their wars. Meanwhile, there is no money for heat in our buildings, or for functioning cafeterias.

Workers protect one another

We also had discussions about the necessity of taking risks and putting something on the line. One student asked us recently in a meeting if there could be repercussions for this kind of public protest against the Chancellor. And we had to respond truthfully - we couldn't make any promises, but of course the bigger the turnout, the safer we are. The working class keeps us safe, in other words.

Those of us who work or study at CUNY have a big job ahead of us. We must participate in the fight against Israeli fascism and, in doing so, put forward internationalism and working-class solidarity as the only solution. Our motto should be "No War but Class War!" We must continue to be a part of the class struggle and keep building PLP so that we can permanently end the horrors of capitalism, whether in Gaza, Haiti, the Bronx, or anywhere. And the only way to end these horrors is with communism, where workers run society.

Continued on page 5

CHALLENGE Radio

LISTEN AT [RSS.COM/PODCAST/CHALLENGERADIO/](https://rss.com/podcast/challengeradio/) OR ANYWHERE YOU LISTEN TO PODCASTS

JOIN THE INTERNATIONAL FIGHT FOR COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

★ **EDITORIAL** *Why nationalism is no solution to genocide..p2*

★ **ATLANTA** *Smash liberal fascism..p3*



★ **PAKISTAN** *rulers' system in crisis, workers organize..p4*

★ **BRONX** *From the Bronx to Palestine, smash the occupation..p8*

OUR FIGHT

☆Progressive Labor Party (PLP) fights to destroy capitalism and the dictatorship of the capitalist class. We organize workers, soldiers and youth into a revolutionary movement for communism.

☆The dictatorship of the working class — communism—can provide a lasting solution to the disaster that is today's world for billions of people. This cannot be done through electoral politics, but requires a revolutionary movement and a mass Red Army led by PLP.

☆Worldwide capitalism, in its relentless drive for profit, inevitably leads to war, fascism, poverty, disease, starvation and environmental destruction. The capitalist class, through its state power — governments, armies, police, schools and culture — maintains a dictatorship over the world's workers. The capitalist dictatorship supports, and is supported by, the anti-working-class ideologies of racism, sexism, nationalism, individualism and religion.

☆While the bosses and their mouthpieces claim "communism is dead," capitalism is the real failure for billions worldwide. Capitalism returned to Russia and China because socialism retained many aspects of the profit system, like wages and privileges. Russia and China did not establish communism.

☆Communism means working collectively to build a worker-run society. We will abolish work for wages, money and profits. While capitalism needs unemployment, communism needs every one to contribute and share in society's benefits and burdens.

☆Communism means abolishing racism and the concept of "race." Capitalism uses racism to super-exploit Black, Latin, Asian and indigenous workers, and to divide the entire working class.

☆Communism means abolishing the special oppression of women— sexism—and divisive gender roles created by the class society.

☆Communism means abolishing nations and nationalism. One international working class, one world, one Party.

☆Communism means that the minds of millions of workers must become free from religion's false promises, unscientific thinking and poisonous ideology. Communism will triumph when the masses of workers can use the science of dialectical materialism to understand, analyze and change the world to meet their needs and aspirations.

☆Communism means the Party leads every aspect of society. For this to work, millions of workers — eventually everyone — must become communist organizers. Join Us!

CONTACT US

Email: desafio.challenge@gmail.com

Mail: Box 808 GPO, Brooklyn, NY 11202

Internet: Online: www.plp.org

Twitter: @PLPchallenge

Facebook: @Challenge Desafio

Instagram: @PLPchallenge



WHO WRITES FOR CHALLENGE?

CHALLENGE is for the working class, produced by the working class. The fact that CHALLENGE/PLP articles are not signed grows from PLP's criticism of the cult of the individual in the former socialist Soviet Union and China. We do not want to encourage the possibility of building up a "following" around any particular individual.

While an article may be written by one person, the final version is based on collective discussion and criticism. Many times this collective discussion even precedes an individual's writing of an article.

CHALLENGE/DESAFIO (ISSN 0009-1049) published bi-weekly by Challenge Periodicals. 1 issue \$1. One Year: \$20. Six months: \$15. Send address changes to CHALLENGE Periodicals, GPO Box 808 Brooklyn, NY 11202 December 13, 2023 • Volume 55 No. 24

Editorial

Why nationalism is no solution to genocide

Inter-imperialist rivalry has reignited genocide in the Horn of Africa. Workers in Sudan, Ethiopia, and Eritrea are trapped in nationalist conflicts that are stealing their homes, their future, and their lives. Spurred by inter-imperialist rivalry, these hostilities have descended into genocide, the systematic destruction of an identified group of workers. The working class has no stake in these ruling class dogfights. As Progressive Labor Party says: "No war but class war!"

The rulers' age-old myth is that workers can better their lives by uniting with bosses based on geography, religion, ethnicity, or the phony concept of race. It's a myth because those bosses are driven only by their hunger to grab ever bigger pieces of the capitalist pie. As we're seeing in Russia and Ukraine, they appeal to "loyalty to the nation" to pit workers against their class brothers and sisters in murderous wars for profit.

Beginning with our criticism of Ho Chi Minh and the Vietnamese leadership in the 1960s, our Party has consistently attacked nationalism as poison for the international working class (see PLP's Road to Revolution 3, 1971). Without exception, every national liberation struggle—from Vietnam to South Africa to Haiti—has betrayed the courageous workers who threw off their imperialist oppressors. Every single one has replaced one set of bloodsucking bosses with another. We're seeing the same tragedy play out today in Palestine. In reality, there are no "one-state" or "two-state" solutions to the contradictions of capitalism. The only solution is communist revolution—a world where all capitalist states are smashed, all national borders erased, and all bosses kicked to the curb. That solution will come when workers flung into the rulers' bloodbaths are organized to turn the guns around and create a new society run by and for our class: communism.

Horn of Africa: inter-imperialist flashpoint

As the worldwide crisis of capitalism intensifies, the imperialist bosses of the U.S., Russia, and China are sharpening their competition over the world's labor and resources. By stoking racism and nationalism to a fever pitch, capitalists seek to deflect workers' legitimate rage over the profit system and scapegoat other workers. Genocide is the inevitable result. From Gaza to the Horn of Africa and beyond, it's how capitalism consigns workers to mass graves.

Africa is the world's most mineral-rich continent and boasts two-thirds of the planet's arable land (Forbes, 5/25). China has invested heavily in African economies, while Russia and the U.S. have stationed thousands of troops across the continent (Foreign Policy, 9/20). The Horn of Africa is a geopolitical flashpoint because it lies along the Red Sea, an essential shipping lane for oil from the Middle East. The imperialists who gain control of the Red Sea and access to the Indian Ocean through the Bab el-Mandeb strait will gain a huge strategic advantage over their rivals.

Sudan's latest genocide

Ever since 1956, when Sudan won its independence from its colonial overlords in Britain and Egypt, local bosses have used nationalism as a weapon in their feuds over land, water, and oil. At every turn, they have sowed divisions between the mostly Arabic-speaking, Muslim population in northern Sudan and the mostly English-speaking, Christian population to the south.

In 2019, the U.S. ruling class saw an opportunity when two Sudanese generals, Abdel Fatah al-Burhan and Mohamed Hamdan "Hemedti" Dagalo, co-opted an uprising against China-backed strongman Omar al-Bashir. Both Burhan and Hemedti are mass murderers who were deeply implicated in the original Darfur genocide of the early 2000's, a slaughter of at least 200,000 people that grew out of the Second Sudanese Civil War. But these monsters' criminal history was no obstacle for the ruthless U.S. imperialists. For the bosses, workers' lives are cheap.

As CHALLENGE warned earlier this year (5/11), workers in Sudan fell into a trap by tying their aspirations to the new military junta and waiting for elections instead of seizing power by force. The U.S. bosses looked the

other way as Burhan and Hemedti slaughtered protesters, postponed elections, and broke promises to hand the country over to civilian leadership. The U.S. rulers' priority was to normalize relations between Sudan and Israel, which is why they forced their new puppets to shut down the local branch of Hamas and seize the group's assets (Reuters, 9/23/21).

Not long after, Burhan and Hemedti turned on one another, resulting in a new civil war that has killed more than nine thousand and displaced more than five million. It has fanned the flames of genocide in the ethnically diverse region of Darfur in western Sudan, including the racist mass rape and massacre of non-Arab workers and children—in particular of the Masalit people who were also targeted twenty years ago. Russia has heightened the conflict by sending arms and mercenaries to support Hemedti, hoping he will reward them with a naval base in Port Sudan (Foreign Affairs, 9/20).

Imperialism brings war to Ethiopia and Eritrea

Across the border in Ethiopia, two years of brutal warfare have ended in an encirclement of the Tigray region by Ethiopian troops from the south and Eritrean forces from the north. The results: widespread starvation, brutal ethnic cleansing, and the deaths of 600,000 people (Al Jazeera, 11/2). The independence movement that broke Eritrea away from long-time U.S. client state Ethiopia in 1993 received funding and training by the Chinese bosses. The leader of that insurgency, Isaias Afwerki, has ruled Eritrea ever since as a vicious capitalist exploiter, profiting off the nation's mineral wealth while workers starve.

Once Eritrea seceded, Ethiopia lost all access to its ports on the Red Sea. It now appears that the bosses backing Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed plan to retake parts of Eritrea's coastline (Foreign Policy, 11/8). Even after the recent Ethiopia-Tigray peace deal, Eritrean soldiers still occupy large parts of the region and continue to engage in ethnic cleansing (Al Jazeera, 11/2). Meanwhile, relations between the U.S. and Ethiopia have frayed, opening the door for Chinese imperialists (U.S. Institute for Peace, 1/19/22).

Capitalist gangsters, imperialist masters

During the original Darfur genocide of the mid-2000s, the Janjaweed militia raped and murdered over 300,000 people. Nationalist misleaders pushed for the creation of South Sudan as a solution. In a parallel struggle in Ethiopia, nationalists pushed for an independent Eritrea. Today, the impoverished workers of South Sudan face "staggering levels of localized violence" and rampant corruption by the local elite (United Nations, 9/3/21). An independent Eritrea is notorious for mass roundups, arbitrary detentions, forced labor, military conscription of high school students, and a poverty rate verging on 40 percent (Human Rights Watch World Report, 2021). All over the world, workers have fought and bled to escape the yoke of European colonialism, only to find themselves ruled by blood-soaked national capitalists and their imperialist backers.

Even now, Hamas, the capitalist leadership in Gaza, is peddling the old lie that Palestinian nationalism is the answer to the Israeli bosses' genocide. But all Hamas can offer is endless bloodshed and exploitation by the ruling classes of Iran and China.

Ultimately, all of these capitalist gangsters and their imperialist masters will send millions of us to die in the killing fields of World War Three. Whichever side wins, our class loses. But as the Russian communists showed in World War One and the Chinese communists showed after World War Two, workers hold the power to turn imperialist war into class war. Though both of these revolutions turned back to capitalism, they proved that workers can seize state power by rejecting nationalism and its rotten tentpoles of racism and sexism. With a mass, international party led by PLP, workers of the world can destroy capitalism for good. We'll replace it with a society where all resources are shared based on need, and where war is a thing of the past. Join us! ☺

From Cop City in Georgia to genocide in Gaza

SMASH LIBERAL FASCISM

NOVEMBER 29, ATLANTA, GA – This year's American Public Health Association (APHA) annual conference was held in Atlanta, a hotbed of ongoing class struggle against the expansion of the ruling class's racist police state and environmental pollution and deforestation, called "Stop Cop City." This is a prime example of the role of liberal bosses, their Democratic Party, and their Black misleaders paving the way toward fascism.

For several months, the national health collective and friends of the Progressive Labor Party (PLP), with decades of experience organizing against racism in medicine, from health determinants to the shackling of patients in hospitals to imperialist war, met virtually in preparation. Building off our ties working within our mass organizations, we joined nurses and public health organizers and were able to connect with health

organizers on the ground involved in the militant "Stop Cop City" fightback.

A comrade and friend from Los Angeles co-presented on a panel with Atlanta healthcare workers involved in the Stop Cop City campaign. We were joined by an organizer in the Santa Marta struggle against the fascist state and mining bosses. Workers there are organizing to protect hard-fought wins to keep foreign mining companies out of El Salvador. Comrades from Chicago also co-presented with the Atlanta healthcare organizers in a session on Decarceration and Abolition.

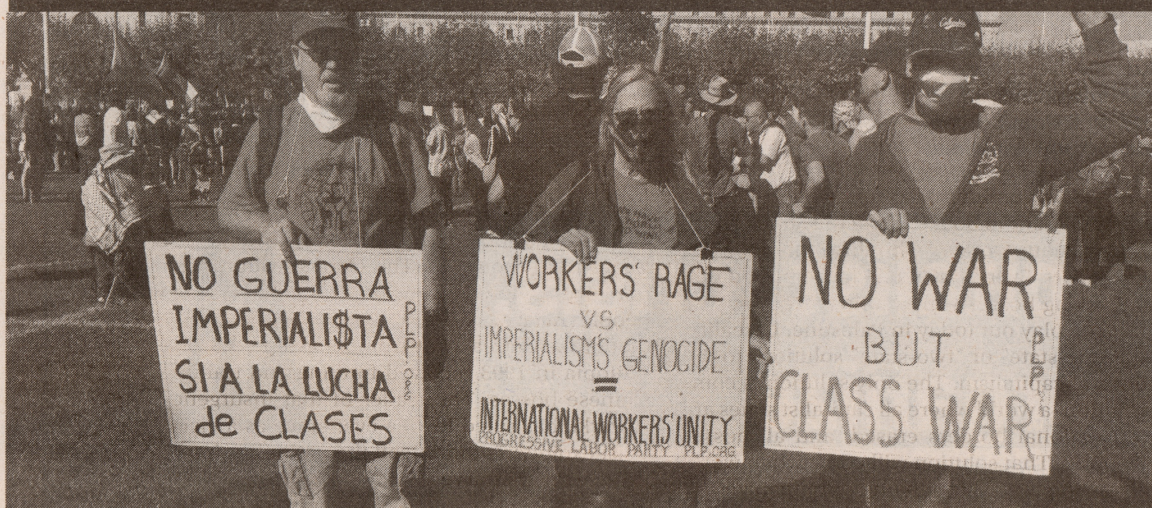
Together, we wrote and distributed a brochure explaining Stop Cop City through a public health lens, distributed it at sessions throughout the conference, and coordinated a rally and press conference outside. The PLP contingent also guaranteed that our communist, antiracist, and anti-imperialist message was dis-

seminated through our APHA CHALLENGE and in our speeches at the rally.

Indeed, even the leadership of APHA did us a favor. About a week before the conference, after nearly a month of genocidal attacks on workers in Palestine and widespread protests, the APHA's Executive Director, Dr. Georges C. Benjamin, released a statement supporting "peace" and "Israel's right to exist." This incited massive anger from many public health workers and students who were attending. Then, after discovering that we were planning the protest outside, conference organizers sent a warning, including the date and time of our protest to all 12,000 attendees of the conference. We thank them for the mass invitation and for showing their true fascist colors!

Continued on page 7

Workers reject imperialist war & genocide



What is APEC?

In APEC's own words: "Cooperation" means to "ensure that goods, services, investment and people move easily across borders, by promoting balanced, inclusive, sustainable, innovative and secure growth and by accelerating regional economic integration." APEC trade deals cover 60 percent of global energy systems and impact some of the most climate-vulnerable areas of the world (<https://www.apec.org/About-Us/About-APEC/>). *1,200 global, corporate CEOs (including: General Motors, Exxon, Chevron, Citibank, Tesla, SpaceX's Musk, Boeing & big tech like Microsoft), 20+ heads of state (including Biden & Xi Jinping), 30,000 lobbyists, corporate execs, & international media. President Xi Jinping met with American business leaders at a \$2,000-per-plate dinner.

Trying to make SF look good on the world stage, the SF city bosses spent thousands to "clean up the City." Homeless workers were removed from downtown areas. Some businesses were shut down. Bridge and freeway exits/entrances were blocked. There was a huge police/security presence. The media blasted that a great opportunity was coming to San Francisco to capture investments from "domestic and international" Finance Capital and to change its tarnished image as a failing city.

D) Needing to maximize profit demands that the US capitalists carry out with fascist attacks on immigrant labor with prisons, murder & family separation, similar to Israeli capitalists' fascist attacks on immigrant labor inside Israel and Gaza. E) the history of US capitalism's displacement of indigenous peoples from "manifest destiny," westward expansion to US imperialist actions throughout the "Americas" with wars and support of fascist coups. Some people were not aware of Secretary of State Madeleine Albright's infamous statement about the death of 500,000 Iraqi children from US war/sanctions: "I think that is a very hard choice, but the price, we think, the price is worth it." Such conversations helped us to get names and several young people invited us to come to the actions they were planning to Shut Down APEC.

Internationalism & nationalism both on display

We, in PLP, learned a lot from the contradictions expressed in these actions. While groups were formed around nationality or national borders, expressed ethnic identity, carried Palestinian flags or focused on particular issues like climate, police terror, or the unhoused, they also contained multi racial\ethnic approaches and called for international unity among working people. In common struggle, there is plenty of room to argue that nationalism is no way out for working people. The worldwide solution is for the international working class to run society, with no borders; that means communism.

During the protests, we explained our communist goals: PLP strives to build the world-wide movement for revolution and for a share and share alike, communism: no capitalist profits, no wage-system, no national borders, no racism, no sexism, working class unity with class siblings around the world. We expressed our confidence that a mighty working class won't be stopped when armed with commitment to production/distribution for the need and ability for all to contribute to an emerging communist world. ☼

NOVEMBER 29, OAKLAND, CA —Class consciousness and anti-capitalism were on full display during the past weeks of actions to shut down business as usual in the San Francisco Bay Area. Tens of thousands marched in Oakland, San Francisco and outlying areas. Multi-generational, multi-racial\ethnic, international groups took action & power in the streets, in Schools and on the job. The actions focused on stopping the genocide in Gaza, shutting down APEC (Asian Pacific Economic Cooperation), and stopping IPEF (Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity) & End Capitalist Destruction of the Environment. Progressive Labor Party (PLP) members urged all working people and students to follow the examples of the internationalist-minded Palestinians and non-Zionist Jews, who are not united with their ruling elites and who emphasized the commonality of their struggles. We had the opportunity to tie these immediate struggles to the need & goal to destroy capitalism with a world-wide revolution and to build a communist world.

Imperialist rivalry on display

After Presidents Biden & Xi Jinping met, Biden laid out his "calming" assurance that the two imperialists had reached mutual agreement on three items: 1) limiting fentanyl production. 2) Open military communication channels and 3) The impact of AI. Then he made a "gaffe", calling Xi a dictator. As the PLP leaflet pointed out: U.S. and China bosses do play buddy-buddy, but the clash of their empires is inevitable. The Real Agenda: Biden & Xi Jinping seek to exploit & divide workers around the world while they compete for "allies" in their imperialist ventures. The Biden administration launched IPEF in 2021 as a U.S.-led alternative for countries in the Indo-Pacific Area who developed deeper economic ties to China; also, as an alternative to the Belt & Road Initiative. IPEF excludes China and includes some countries, not in APEC, like India. Some U.S. allies in the Americas accept capital investments from China. Some, now, criticize Israel as well as Hamas.

Protests overwhelm police repression and media propaganda

Demonstrators denouncing imperialism and genocide joined up at the SF Civic Center, Market St, Black Rock headquarters, (asset management), Democratic Party Convention in Sacramento. Many called for Free Palestine. At one demonstration, protestors physically

surrounded CEOs as they sought to enter APEC Sessions: yelling & booing: "Shame, Shame" "Blood on your hands," videoing CEOs for further shaming on the internet.

A day after Biden & Xi Jinping met, a coalition against genocide, racism and imperialism, shut down the Bay Bridge; stopping traffic from Oakland to SF & disrupting those attending APEC(similar action happened on a bridge between Cambridge & Boston Ma.)

In sharp contrast to anti-imperialist, internationalism actions, groups of pro and anti-China demonstrators waved their national flags. They clashed, on the side-lines of APEC, over which capitalist bosses to support. (Asian Diaspora from Tibet, Hong Kong & Uyghurs vs groups that support Xi Jinping ruling class in China & hoped to meet with him.)

Education workers in OEA (Oakland Education Association), UESF (United educators of San Francisco) & UAW 2865 (adjuncts, grad students and others in the UC System) passed resolutions for ceasefire and no weapons for the Israeli war machine. SEIU 1021 (service workers) & United Service Workers West(many janitors)passed resolutions calling for ceasefire.

The Belgian Transport Union has refused to load arms for Israel.

No war but class war

PLP members' experience at these actions brought home, in a real way, that thousands have turned fear and cynicism into anger and solidarity; particularly against imperialist genocide in Gaza. We got a great reception to our posters, CHALLENGE and flyers. (see pictures) Many eagerly responded to "No War but Class War"; "Stop the Genocide"; "Read a communist leaflet about what's happening in Israel and Gaza." We focused on the interconnected oppression of capitalist rule in the USA to the oppression/genocide that imperialism brings down on workers around the world; especially with their junior partner, the Israel ruling class.

Tax dollars needed for public services like education and transit exported to fund the Israeli military, (i.e. cash for profit in the U.S. armament industry

Export of Israeli military training/intelligence to police departments in the USA which carry out racist attacks on Black, brown and low-income communities. C)\$44 million for a new "Cop Campus", regional training center, in San Pablo Ca. (near SF & Oakland).

Letter: Chicago's Black Friday

Shut this genocidal system down

On November 24, I joined three other comrades at the "Save Gaza," Black Friday March on Chicago's Michigan Avenue, the "Magnificent Mile," of expensive shops and restaurants. Several progressive groups were present at the event such as the US Palestinian Community Network and Students for Social Justice at the University of Illinois-Chicago (UIC).

Shoppers unnecessarily crossed through the rally, and at one point a racist shouted, "Stop killing babies and raping women!" While I don't know what kind of statistics there are about rape in this conflict, the hard evidence about the Israeli Defense Force's current killing of 6,150 children in just under two months should be spiking the radar of any "pro-lifer." The dehumanizing tactics of Hamas are centered in the imagination of those all too unwilling to grapple with Israel's own dehumanizing, US-supported tactics on Palestinians, where prior to the current slaughter 40% of the male population in Palestine had been imprisoned.

Once the march of about 1,000 took off, there were several stopping points in front of businesses like Victoria's Secret and Starbucks shouting, "Shame on You!" while cops blocked the entrances. At one point we chanted, "CPD, KKK, IDF, they're all the same!" At another point an Arab American cop guarding a business was a particular focus for a small group of Arab protesters.

I carried a sign with the picture of Murod Kurdi, an Arab American worker from the nearby suburb of Oak Lawn who was murdered by a drunk driver. I got the opportunity to explain the PLP's support of the case to a worker handing out flyers. He referred to the area Murod was from as "Little Palestine," on account of the large diaspora there. A family with a 5-year-old boy and his family holding signs of support for Palestine came closer to have him read my sign and ask about it. When the boy struggled to understand the importance of an Arab worker killed by a drunk driver, a member of their group explained

that if the driver hadn't been white, they likely wouldn't have gotten away with it.

Though most shoppers hid away in stores or acted as unaffected as possible, I did get some CHALLENGEs to a few of them. A pair of young workers gazed from the sidelines in awe, and when handed a CHALLENGE and told it was a communist paper, one responded, "The people control the means of production!" I got handed one to a young Black worker who raised her fist and began to march along the sidewalk with us. Another worker outside of Starbucks recognized CHALLENGE and asked for one.

Ending at the historic Water Tower, an organizer called for high school students to organize walkouts, for college students to challenge their learning institutions that often have Zionist backing, and to continue coming out every week. *

Pakistan: in capitalist crisis, workers organize

Workers in Pakistan are grappling with a dire economic situation. Inter-imperialist rivalry is heating up, particularly in dependent countries like Pakistan. It depends upon the financial capital of Saudi Arabia, China, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), and the U.S., in that order. For example, in order to obtain the latest International Monetary Fund (IMF) bailout, Pakistani bosses are forcing workers to produce weapons for Ukraine as collateral for the latest bailout package. In addition, Pakistani bosses are raising funds by stealing from workers and selling national assets like its ports to the UAE.

Various social issues are escalating, while the ruling elite shamelessly serves the interests of imperialism. Unemployment is spreading rapidly, inflation is increasing daily, and workers across different industries are losing their jobs. Farm workers are being compelled by landlords to work longer hours for lower wages, and women and children are being pushed into bonded labor. The Progressive Labor Party (PLP) is taking a leading role in the working-class fightback in Pakistan, explaining the situation and pointing out the need for a communist revolution as the only solution.

Workers fight back; bosses terrorize with crackdowns

The most impoverished sections of the working class face a lack of job opportunities in both the public and private sectors. Local industrialists and feudalists prioritize exploiting workers and shifting their capital abroad, resulting in daily suicides among workers and their families due to unemployment, lack of food, and shelter. Working-class individuals are actively participating in Action Committees, organizing protests and sit-ins against new taxes, high inflation, unemployment, and terrorism.

Government employees are stag-

ing strikes and sit-ins to pressure authorities to increase their pay in line with inflation. However, the finance department's adherence to IMF instructions makes it challenging for the government to provide relief. The fear of displeasing international monetary organizations like the IMF has led to a situation where Pakistan's default could collapse the capitalist economic system, leading poor workers to challenge the state due to hunger, exploitation, and poverty.

Protests extend from teachers to clerks, with various organizations, including the All-Government Employees Grand Alliance (AGEGA), mobilizing. The Punjab government's attempt to privatize schools is seen as a move that will increase unemployment and exploitation. The government is also set to introduce amendments to pension regulations under IMF instructions, sparking agitation among poor people against the ruling class's actions.

AGEGA's militancy has triggered a brutal crackdown, resulting in the arrest of over 556 demonstrators. Protesters from various unions, including the Punjab Teachers Union, All Pakistan Clerk Association, Health Employees' Association, and the Punjab Professors and Lecturers' Association, were subjected to torture and false cases, highlighting the intense suppression by authorities.

Party exposes bosses' privatization schemes and corruption

The impending privatization of Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) is perceived as a ploy to appease capitalist supporters. Capitalist bosses, in every election, fund campaigns of almost every party expected to form the next government. This privatization, along with other institutions, is viewed as a means to bribe capitalists, although it raises concerns about the impact on

public services.

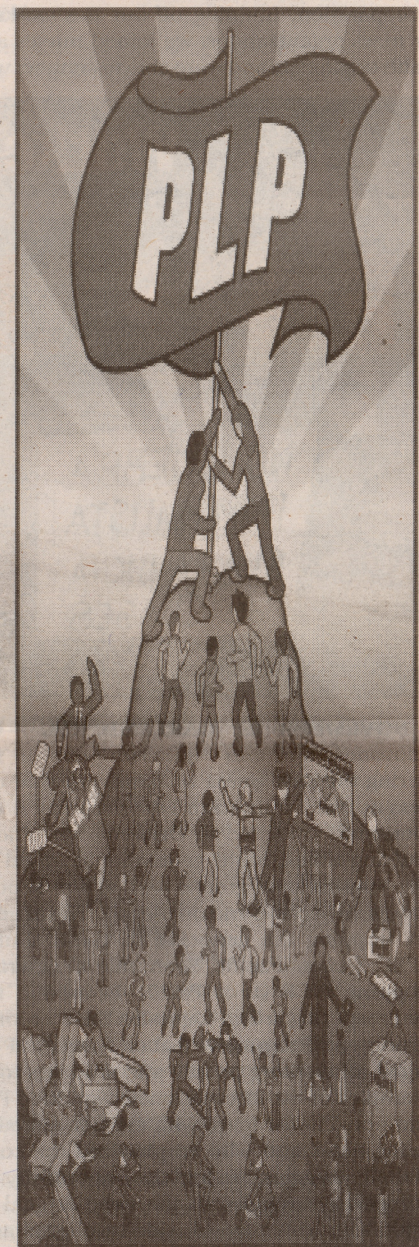
Despite approximately 23 million out-of-school children in Pakistan, public school neglect continues. Teachers' unions are criticized for their role, seen as self-serving and aligned with bureaucracy and politicians. The Progressive Labor Party (PLP) is involved in these actions, using them to provide true revolutionary leadership, guiding workers to see their revolutionary potential, and understanding the root causes of Pakistan's political, social, and economic challenges. While participating in reform struggles, PLP offers hope for a brighter future, distinguishing itself from other leftist and socialist parties.

Only working class PLP can lead the way

Political parties in Pakistan have often manipulated Palestine and Kashmir issues for sympathy and funds. Religious parties exploit these issues for financial gain. Despite working-class people's disconnection from these geopolitical concerns, religious parties use mosques to mobilize mainly businesspeople, shopkeepers, and government employees in rallies lacking the passion of the working class.

Religious parties' reluctance to aggressively address the Palestinian genocide is attributed to their ties with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The PLP supports progressive students, workers, and political activists in organizing demonstrations against imperialist greed and exploitation. The Party emphasizes the need to fight against the capitalist system, which it sees as the main cause of global bloodshed. PLP advocates for international organizations under its red flag to eradicate every evil of capitalism and establish a political and economic system guaranteeing equality, justice, and peace - communism. *

**CAPITALISM
BREEDS SEXISM
RACISM
& IMPERIALISM!**



**FIGHT FOR A COMMUNIST
WORLD
BUILD THE INTERNATIONAL
PLP!
PROGRESSIVE LABOR PARTY**

Arab, Jewish, Black, Brown, white: To smash genocide, we must unite!



To stop the genocidal war machine from killing, smash the entire capitalist system

Continued from page 8

this profit system is genocidal. Even if one genocidal company were to go bankrupt, the bloody wheels of imperialist war would continue to turn. The whole damn system has got to go!

Identity politics is a dead-end

In an attempt to build nationalism for a multicultural United States, while distracting workers from the fundamentally racist fabric of capitalism, the liberal fascists have succeeded in convincing many workers to vote for a multiracial array of misleaders who are very quickly exposing themselves to be managers of genocide. Adriano Espaillat, who is praised for being the first Dominican and formerly undocumented immigrant to serve in the U.S. Congress, is using the phony language of "friendship and love" to push multicultural nationalism for both Israel and the United States and justify Israel's incessant bombing of work-

ers and children in Gaza. On October 31, he spoke at a fascist Israel solidarity event at Yeshiva University, where the Israeli-flag-waving audience responded to his introduction with a standing ovation. At this same event, which a pro-Israel news outlet celebrated as "a visible demonstration of the bedrock connection between the Latino and Jewish communities in Washington Heights," participants sang both the Israeli and American national anthems. Not a single word was spoken about thousands of Palestinian women and children murdered by Israeli bombs, exposing a hallmark of fascism: racist disregard for workers' lives.

Workers must reject electoral politics

Espaillat is far from alone in this multiracial contingent of bloodthirsty misleaders. In the Bronx, for example, U.S. Representative Richie Torres, the first gay Afro-Latin in Congress, received almost \$300,000 from pro-Israel PACs in 2022 alone. As election season approaches, there is no doubt that the U.S. ruling class

will use all tools available in an attempt to funnel the working class' righteous rage at genocide into campaigning that we vote for the "lesser of two evils." Just as Jim Crow Joe Biden and Kkamala Harris misused the passion and energy of Black Lives Matter protests in 2020 to garner support for their racist administration, they will try to do the same again. We must not let them! While the liberal fascists work overtime to convince workers in the United States to side with the Israeli ruling class, the truth is that workers in New York City have way more in common with workers in Palestine than with any capitalist ruler. No politician, from president to council member, will provide the answer to genocide. Don't vote, revolt! We need an international communist movement led by millions of workers to smash all borders and end racist genocide once and for all. Join the Progressive Labor Party and fight with us for communism.✪

Speech : From The Bronx to Palestine, Smash the occupation!

Continued from page 1

Good morning! Originally planned around adjunct poverty, uncertainty racist austerity, and issues that workers and students have been fighting for decades. Then, of course, the Hamas attack on October 7th was followed on the 11th by the Chancellor's horrible, racist statement. 450 words and not one single one about what was already an unfolding slaughter in Gaza. Israel's 75-year campaign of terror against Palestinians went unmentioned. The horrors of the occupation and settler violence were nowhere to be found. In short, absolutely no context - just the acknowledgment of Israeli lives and the erasure of Palestinians. And so in some sense, our focus for today needed to change. The Chancellor's denial of Palestinian humanity and his attacks on those of us fighting against genocide demand a response.

But in many ways, our message is the same. CUNY administration's attitude towards Palestine and those of us fighting for its liberation is really just a sharper, more openly fascist expression of the racist disregard that they have shown for CUNY's Black and brown students for decades. In the Bronx, we've had to fight for basic services, such as heat in the winter, a cafeteria on campus, and functioning elevators. Throughout CUNY our buildings are crumbling, class sizes are in-



creasing and the treatment of students and workers is being degraded.

The chancellor's erasure of Palestinians mirrors the way adjunct super-exploitation and precarity are erased. We shouldn't really be surprised that there was no mention of Israel's brutal occupation. CUNY has never had anything to say about the cops who occupy our students' neighborhoods and they welcomed the cops who are currently occupying our campuses attempting to intimidate and silence us. They have also said absolutely nothing about a Zionist councilwoman who threatened pro-Palestinian demonstrators with a gun. This councilwoman, by the way, has had her charges dropped because the gun, which she turned in more than a day after the fact, was "inoperable." I met a public defender at a demonstration yesterday who told me she wished she could use that defense for her clients. But no, this is a defense reserved only for those doing the work of the

U.S. ruling class who are desperate to squash mass opposition to the fascist regime in Israel - their only reliable ally in the oil-rich region.

All of this shows why we say from New York to Palestine, occupation is a crime!

I also want us to take a moment to look around. This is our way forward - solidarity between Arab, Jewish, Black, white, Latin, and Asian students and workers. This is not only how we defeat the attempt to erase the Palestinian struggle, racist austerity at CUNY, and the impoverishment of adjuncts. It's the basis of a new world without capitalist-caused racism, occupation, and genocide. Arab, Jewish, Black, and white, workers of the world unite!

Thank you all for being here, for standing up and saying we will not be silent as the Chancellor continues to impoverish our adjunct brothers and sisters. We will not be silent as the Chancellor continues his program of racist austerity, degrading the education of our wonderful students. And we will not be silent as the Chancellor erases a people, excuses apartheid, and condones genocide!

We were here last year, we're here today and we'll be back again, for as long as needed, until we have won!

Hey, Felo you can't hide, you're supporting genocide!

LETTERS

We encourage all CHALLENGE readers to send in letters and articles about their experiences fighting the bosses worldwide.



No shackling of patients

November 14 was a busy day for U.S. PLP members and friends at the American Public Health Association (APHA) meetings in Atlanta, Georgia. We joined protests against Cop City in Atlanta and Israel's genocide of Palestinians abroad. We were also instrumental in getting a policy passed by the APHA against shackling prisoners in health care settings (like handcuffing them to the metal rails on a hospital bed).

We worked for over a year with friends and PLP members to craft this resolution, just as we have done before on successful resolutions against police brutality and for prison abolition. This strong anti-racist policy statement gives us a new tool to demand humane treatment of prisoners at our local institutions. Two of us engaged in this policy work also hit the streets as a security team at the Cop City rally, openly advocating against capitalism and for communism. These actions opened the door to deeper political conversations at a later social event. A fellow rally security member was excited to meet a communist and to learn more about the PLP.

Handing out our newsletter, APHA Challenge, at sessions where we presented or spoke from the floor was another way we got into good conversations, including one with an interested activist who remembered us from our campaign last year around global

genocide, but it's "unreasonable" to remember the dead.

In one New York City high school, on what would've been his 18th birthday, students wanted to memorialize Claude.* After what happened in March, in fear of retaliation, students wanted permission before putting up a memorial again.

Claude was a son, brother, friend, thinker, creator, student—and a victim. He was doubly targeted by the capitalist violence in the street and the racist education system in the schools. Following his killing, students had fought to memorialize Claude. In response, the administration had taken down the memorial not once, but twice! And each time, we rebuilt it bigger. (See CHALLENGE 4/12 and 4/26 for the full backstory.)

When I met with the principal this week to submit the students' request, she eventually said yes. I quickly informed the students of the small win. I also asked staff to join me in wearing Black in memory of Claude.

Twelve hours later, before the school day, I received an email revoking permission to post the memorial.

When I arrived at school, I saw many workers in Black. Students and I began our morning with a circle in the hallway in front of the memorial. One student led us through a speech and ten seconds of silence. We then wrote messages on the poster.

After morning check-in, I was told by the administration to take down the memorial.

I replied, "No, I'm not doing that. I won't be the one to remove it."

She did a double take and said, "Okay, I'll take it down myself. I'm not scared."

The simple act of remembering a Black working-class student is defiance in this Black-run school. The fact that a memory of a child's killing is so threatening exposes the racist anti-student nature of schools under bloody capitalism. One purpose of capitalist education is to recreate all the inequalities that make this profit system run. Capitalism's schools censor and repress anti-working-class ideas. Bringing attention to Claude shatters the image of this "good school." His memorial is a reminder that this whole system is disproportionately rigged against Black, Brown, and immigrant students. Such a system doesn't deserve to exist.

Well, the principal finally backed down for now: "I don't want to fight...we'll keep it."

Taking small risks like these helps build working-class confidence for the bigger battles ahead. Our next battle is fighting anti-Muslim racism (more next time).

Throughout the day, students from all grades signed the poster. Hundreds were careful to not let it wrinkle as they passed through the hallway. For now, the memorial is up.

Our principal was trying to bury Claude's memory like how Israel buried 14,000 of our working-class siblings.

Students and education workers here have yet to see it, but the very group of people who kill kids overseas are the same people who kill kids in the streets.

Be it Brooklyn or Gaza, this profit system tries to bury us, but the working class remembers. We will remember Claude. We will remember the genocide.

In their memory, we will fight for the kind of world they deserve.

*The pseudonym Claude is inspired by the communist fighter and writer, Claude McKay.

★★★★★

Canada: worker organizer solidarity with our class in Gaza

A Progressive Labor Party (PLP) member organized a solidarity event with workers in Palestine in his rural Maritime-Canadian community. The event was part of a national day of action demanding that the Canadian government support an immediate ceasefire in Israel-Palestine and call for an end to the blockade of Gaza.

More than 250 workers and their families showed up, a substantial turnout in a town of 5000. The highlight was a "complicity tour" that involved marching to various sites in town at which designated speakers critically connected the location to Canadian support for the ongoing genocide. The stops included

the local university, where the speaker called out the administration's cowardly unwillingness to condemn Israeli state violence and made the case for the BDS (Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions) movement. Then it was on to Scotiabank, whose logo blazes the same shade as the blood of Palestinian children, with the institution's massive investments in Elbit Systems, an Israeli death merchant.

The gap between a ceasefire demand and PLP's call to turn the guns around appears wide indeed, but by working in a reform-oriented organization Party members will continue striving to keep the revolutionary horizon in view, testing our line among an expanding coalition of community members.

★★★★★

Response to Gaza genocide: teacher stops business as usual

As the bombs were falling on our working-class brothers and sisters in the Levant (Gaza and surrounding area), the New York City Department of Education dropped a bomb on NYC teachers. The Chancellor put out an email saying that teachers could be fired for anything they post on social media. This is a clear escalation, and an example of liberal fascism increasing, due to the need for the ruling class to silence any criticism of Israel's genocide in Gaza.

Not a word of criticism was broached by the Teachers' Union thus their silence is complicity. Upon seeing the letter, my club of Progressive Labor Party (PLP) teachers began formulating a plan to respond. One teacher shared a template that some teachers were using to write a letter to the teachers union's president. We then decided that the club would take this course of action.

In addition, I decided that I wouldn't be teaching my usual classes and would, instead, have a class discussion on Israel/Palestine. I was able to have a sharp conversation in the classroom and had several students — including some Muslim students — thank me. This also opened up the ability to have conversations with teachers, in which I consistently brought up the Party's analysis that U.S. support of Israel's genocide is all part of inter-imperialist rivalry.

While sitting in the teacher's center during my off period, I quickly wrote a letter and asked for input from a young Latin teacher with whom I'd had a few political conversations. She was happy to help, and shared that not only was the Israeli genocide fueled by the Leviathan Oil fields off of the coast of Gaza, but that there were plans to create a canal that would rival Egypt's Suez Canal and be totally under the control of the U.S. and Israel.

I then sent the letter to our entire staff. Several teachers thanked me, especially one teacher with a Muslim name who said he was afraid of speaking out due to racism. Many good conversations with students and teachers and much base-building occurred by following and carrying out the plans that my club had made. Of course, as part of our plan, we decided to share our experiences with CHALLENGE to help the Party grow and learn.

★★★★★



vaccination access.

While PLP has provided consistent leadership in struggles at APHA for decades, today's multiple crises for the global working class mean that the party group in the APHA must grow as class struggle intensifies!

★★★★★

We will remember Claude

We live in a world where it's "normal" to commit

Anti-genocide protest

Unite to bury the capitalist system



Genocide and police terror are symptoms of sick system. Cure these ills with communism!

Two protests: against racist cops and racist genocide

This resulted in two simultaneous actions; our Stop KKKop City rally planned with local Atlanta organizers and the other protest that grew out of the visceral anger of public health workers at the conference itself. We divided our forces as about 100 healthcare workers held a silent protest inside the governing council meeting urging the passage of a resolution calling for an immediate ceasefire and end of the occupation (see photo). On the outside, comrades linked the fascist attacks on workers in Gaza to the fascist attacks in Atlanta, including violent attacks on protestors just one day prior at the proposed "Cop City" — the same site where environmental activist Tortugita was murdered.

A comrade started his speech by saying, "If there was a chant that connected the fightback against KKKop City and racist mass incarceration here to the open-air prison and genocidal attacks in Gaza, it's booming in protests in cities across the world, with 'Biden, Biden you can't hide, We charge you with Genocide!'" The crowd outside began chanting it as well. After a

few rounds of chanting he asked, "But how many of us voted for him?"

This created a pause and some snaps in the back. He then explained not just Biden's role in the five-decades-long racist wars on crime/drugs and mass incarceration but explained how this was made possible through our class's illusions in the so-called Civil Rights "wins" of former organizers turned Democratic Party politicians.

Across the U.S., from Atlanta to DC, Detroit to LA, these politicians became servants of the ruling class and supported the expansion and militarization of the police for decades as a solution to deindustrialization and racist unemployment. Cop City isn't new, the comrade said; the ruling class and the liberal politicians are doubling down and tripling down on this decades-long fascist build-up. He explained how Chicago and Baltimore have already constructed Cop Cities.

Voting is a dead end, fight for workers power: communism

In Los Angeles, where this comrade is from, the entire city council voted to expand the police size and

budget, even though it already takes more than half the city budget and has long been home to the largest jail on the planet — despite the presence of the city's first Black woman mayor, Karen Bass. So we shouldn't be surprised when in Atlanta, the current Black mayor supports the destruction of forests so they can build a training center for urban warfare. Speaking in solidarity, the comrade said, "We can't continue to make the same mistakes," referring to illusions that the bosses' state and politicians can ever serve our class interests. They're arming themselves and terrorizing our class because they are preparing for world war and are afraid of our class. From Gaza to Atlanta, we must arm ourselves with revolutionary communist class consciousness and turn the guns around on the bosses and their state.

This speech was well received by the rally participants including two friends from LA in the crowd. Our APHA CHALLENGE was distributed and after the rally and silent protest, about two dozen joined us in a debrief where we further discussed our line in addition to planning for future efforts leading up to next year's conference. ☺



RED EYE ON THE NEWS . . .

Biden kept "baby-killers" propaganda in speech

Al Jazeera, 11/27—US President Joe Biden reportedly rejected the advice of staff to refrain from repeating unverified reports that Hamas had beheaded babies during its attack on Israel on October 7. Some White House advisors appealed to the president to "cut a line about Hamas beheading babies because those reports were unverified," according to a report by The Washington Post. An Israeli news outlet made the original claim, which was picked up by media outlets across the globe. However, no such beheadings have been verified by any Israeli or international source. Not long after Biden's speech, the White House said in a statement that it had not confirmed the veracity of the reports.

Times economists fret that workers are pessimistic about the economy

New York Times, 11/23—Americans seem very grumpy about the economy lately, despite what looks like some pretty good news...To an economist, inflation is the change in prices...But to most people, inflation is high prices. So they look at high prices in the supermarket (for example) and say, "That's inflation!"... Another thing bugging people is housing. Home prices and mortgage rates are up, and affordability is way down. Rents are also up. This is no problem if you already own it, but it's awful if you're a young person

trying to buy your first place. That's why you see TikTok talking about a Silent Depression; that might also explain why 93 percent of people 18 to 29 in a recent New York Times/Siena College poll said the economy was poor or only fair...In an NBC News poll released last weekend, only 19 percent of respondents said that they were confident the next generation would have better lives than their own generation. NBC said it was the smallest share of optimists dating back to the question's introduction in 1990...That kind of pessimism might be easier to understand if the economy were in the tank.

Zapatistas dissolve autonomous municipalities

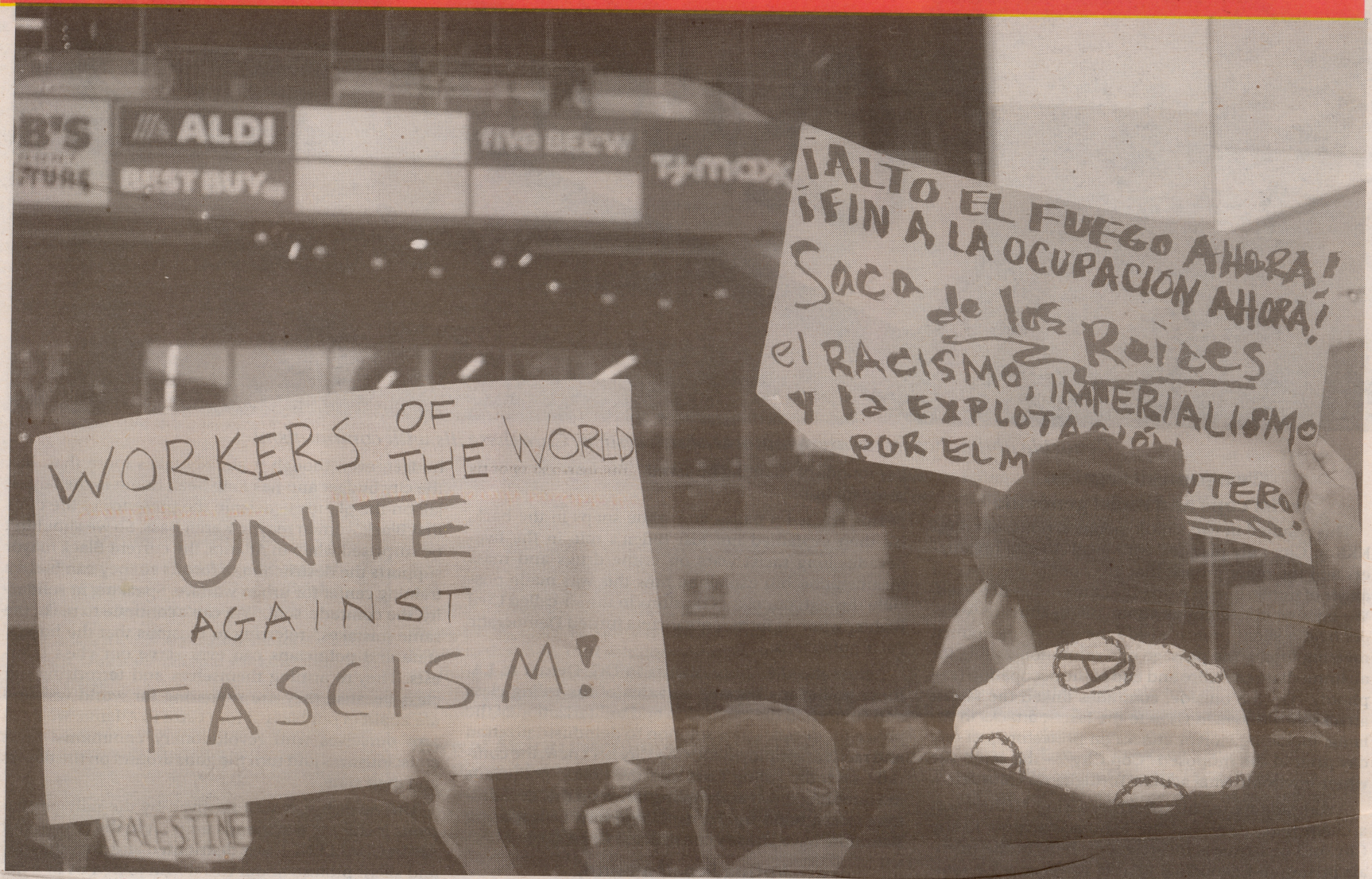
AP, 11/6—The Zapatista indigenous rebel movement in southern Mexico said in a statement posted Monday it is dissolving the "autonomous municipalities" it declared in the years following the group's 1994 armed uprising... "In upcoming statements, we will describe the reasons and the processes involved in taking this decision," the statement said. "We will also begin explaining what the new structure of Zapatista autonomy will look like, and how it was arrived at..." Anthropologist Gaspar Morquecho, who has studied the movement for decades, said the Zapatistas — known as the EZLN, after their initials in Spanish — have become increasingly isolated, leading many young people to move out of the townships in search of work or

more formal education opportunities...Chiapas has seen the rise of migrant smuggling, drug cultivation and trafficking, and bloody turf battles between the Sinaloa and Jalisco drug cartels...The Mexican government has sent thousands of soldiers and quasi-military National Guard troopers to Chiapas... "The only reason they are here is to stem migration. That is the order they got from the U.S. government," the statement read.

Arms race expands throughout Asia

Nikkei Asia, 11/28—By the 2030s, the Indo-Pacific region will be filled with thousands of new missiles as the U.S., China, North Korea, South Korea, Japan, Australia, and Taiwan race to expand their arsenals, Ankit Panda, a Carnegie Endowment for International Peace senior fellow, said Monday. The danger, Panda told Nikkei Asia, is the "intersection between advanced conventional missile systems and the risk of nuclear war." The greatest fear is that countries such as China and North Korea may be more likely to resort to nuclear use if these conventional missiles are perceived to target their national leadership, he said. Since arms control talks are unlikely in the current geopolitical context, one idea is for the U.S. and its allies to publicly "forswear any preemptive" attacks on national leaders, he proposed in a recent Carnegie report, "Indo-Pacific Missile Arsenals -- Avoiding Spirals and Mitigating Escalation Risks."

Arab, Jewish, Black, Brown, white: To smash genocide, we must unite!



*Spanish poster says: Cease fire now! End the Occupation now! Smash racism, imperialism, and exploitation to stop the killing!
PLP says this is only possible through international communist revolution*

BRONX, NY, November 18- Amidst hundreds of other anti-genocide protests across the nation and the world during the past several weeks, 150 protesters rallied outside of a Starbucks in the Bronx and later took over the streets to demand a ceasefire in Gaza and expose U.S. Representative Adriano Espaillat's snake-like support for U.S. funding of Israel's genocide. Millions of workers are exposing the role of these murderous politicians in Israel's fascist slaughter. Although the main demand of the march was a ceasefire, our signs said ceasefire is "not enough!" "Smashing the Israeli state" is "not enough!" Workers need to smash capitalism and its racist borders worldwide! Many workers voiced agreement with the need to go further than reform demands. When one worker read the headline of the 11/29 CHALLENGE "From the rivers to the seas, communism will set us free!" she said, "NOW we are talking!"

The rally and march were organized by a local mul-

tiracial pro-Palestine group that is only a little over a month old. Comrades in the Progressive Labor Party (PLP) are taking leadership in the struggle, and friends of the Party have become energized and feel compelled to get more involved. Among other chants, we chanted, "Not another nickel, not another dime! No more money for Israel's crimes!" We handed out more than 75 papers and made several contacts. Immediately after the march, we held a packed study group with several base members, including a comrade's former student and the college-aged son of a longtime friend of the Party who wanted to join the struggle. During the study group, we read the latest CHALLENGE editorial and discussed the meanings of words such as Zionism, capitalism, imperialism, fascism, and communism, and we made plans for future study.

This working-class neighborhood, with many Latin and Arab workers, came out in support of our rally and march. People were beeping their horns, raising their

fists, and cheering our cause. One driver opened his window to yell, "Stop the genocide!" Workers are seeing through the bosses' lies about this war and siding with the working class in Palestine. We in PLP are not surprised: in fact, we put our confidence in the development and strength of workers and youth in these neighborhoods, part of the international working class that will one day seize power from the capitalist bosses.

No justice in a capitalist system

In solidarity with workers in Palestine, many workers in the United States are boycotting Starbucks and other companies that support Israeli apartheid and genocide. The lists of company after company circulating on social media serve as indictments of U.S. capitalism and evidence that the very rotten core of

Continued on page 5

WRITE FOR CHALLENGE!

CHALLENGE strives to be the communist paper for and by the international working class. We call on all readers, supporters, and comrades to submit class struggle articles, analytical pieces, original photos and graphics, letters, and political cartoons.

The next deadline is night of Friday, December 8

Send to desafio.challenge@gmail.com. For some guidance and house style rules, please go to www.bit.ly/338ZJow

All submissions are open to collective discussion, struggle, and change. See sidebar on page 2 about fighting for collectivity and against a cult of the individual.

SUBSCRIBE or RENEW!

All the communist politics, news, and struggle from around the world!

one-year subscription: \$20 individual

\$45 for institution

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Make check or money order to: Challenge Periodicals, PO Box 808, Brooklyn, NY 11202

